SUNDAY, per Year



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1901. Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY AND SUNDAY, per Year...
DAILY AND SUNDAY, per Month. Postage to foreign countries added.
THE SUN, New York City PARIS-Riosque No. 12, near Grand Hotel, and

ue No. 10, Boulevard des Capucines. If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for

they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Panama?

If the representatives of the French hareholders really desire to obtain from Congress consideration of a reasonable proposition to sell out to this Government, and if they have an attractive proposition to offer, the swiftest ship that crosses the Atlantic is none too fast for their service at this time.

Perhaps the last opportunity of Panama has already gone. Certain it is that with every week and day it is going.

Monsieur HUTIN as a negotiator was too slow or too timid or too much hampered by the people behind him. The only move that can now gain a hearing for the Panama route must be nothing short of Napoleonic in conception and execution.

The End.

Death could not have caused the peculiar pathos of this note, which calls for no explanation of its origin:

"WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 23, 1901 "MY DEAR MR. WEERS: Admiral SAMPSON IS too ill to really understand your most kind letter, just received, but if he were well he would wish to thank you for it; he cares so much for 'old times' and for anything that concerns Palmyra. . . My dear husband is quite worn out with a long life, consecrated to duty. Physically he is comfortable and happy, but the brain is tired beyond ever being rested. Sincerely,

" ELIZABETH BURLING SAMPSON

The wrong, cruel, bitter and intense, which has been done to WILLIAM T. Sampson is now beyond reparation. The commander of the American fleet throughout a war that ended in our complete and momentous triumph, has lived without a shred of the honors that traditionally follow faithful and successful service, until he has passed beyond their reach for all time. If Congress were to-day to load Rear Admiral SAMPSON with rank and thanks, they would be empty, for he has lost the power to accept them. And to this he has been brought, not by the inevitable force of age, but by abuse such as we have not known equalled in all the annals of political controversy.

Savage and fatal as this outrage has been, it was founded upon feeling that was simply childish in its illogicality The offences for which Sampson has been made to suffer in this extreme manner, in so far as they could be formulated, consisted in the wording of his despatch announcing the victory of Santiago and in his describing, in a letter to the Secretary of the Navy, the conduct of a subordinate, Commodore SCHLEY, as "reprehensible "-a criticism which a court of inquiry consisting of three high Admirals have virtually de-

GEORGE DEWEY, the commander of a equadron the effect of whose operations was great politically, but insignificant upon the actual war, was made Admiral. But SAMPSON, the commander of the fleet upon whose operations the actual triumph of the American arms over Spain was based, is rewarded with every circumstance of popular insult. And finally the same DEWEY aims an unthe attending circumstances, by the simplest laws of good faith.

Throughout the progress of this tragedy however, Sampson has had one immeasurable and irreplaceable satisfaction. His Commander-in-Chief, President McKINLEY, and his more immediate superior, the Secretary of the Navy, honored him and spared no effort to obtain for him his deserts. And his subordinates, the men of his fleet, particularly those who commanded and with an almost passionate affection and respect. At this moment we can think of nothing so humiliating to this country, so shocking to the sense of justice, as the closing years of the career of Rear Admiral SAMPSON.

The Purchase of Commissions in the British Army.

It will be remembered by readers of "Vanity Fair" that old Osnonne left by will to Major Donnts " such a sum as may be sufficient to purchase his commission as a Licutement-Colonel," and that Major O'Down and Capt. Mac-Menno attained their promotion slowly by seniority, and not by purchase.

It is just thirty years since Queen Victoria sholished the long-existing system of purchase, making use of a royal warrant to do so after the House of Larde had refused to consider the bill sholishing the practice. The Queen's action gave rise to much its feeling in both house of Parliament, and there was some excited talk of impraching Mr. GLADOTONE, who was Premier and therefore the responsible Minister The matter epecially dropped and of mind, however, and nothing keyond a rote of consuce an the Frame Manuster by the Lorde ever came of it

ments and infantry kattaines thay fantrymen still on the active list, who make of himself an ordery on occusion. the system which has produced (seconds) sinte of the political thermometer. As DEPORTS. WILLIAM SHIRES. HAWSON & home to use that serm then the water succession.

manner to which the British Army had qualities jell out. And yet his imme-

permitted by CHARLES II., but forbidden by WILLIAM III.; in 1702, however, it was recognized by a judicial decision, holding an officer liable to pay £600 for his promotion to Captain. Later various royal commissions investigated the matter, with especial reference to the 'over-regulation" payments, which often exceeded the prices fixed by law. In 1765 Lord LIGONIER'S commission reported that the regulation price for a Lieutenancy was £400; for a Lieutenant-Colonelcy, giving command of a regiment, the price was £3,500. A hundred years later, the regulation price of commission as ensign was £450, and that of a Lieutenant-Colonelcy of the Life Guards was £7,250.

Under the purchase system, first commissions were given to gentlemen whose names were on the Commander-in-Chief's list, and to cadets from the Military College at Sandhurst, on passing the examinations and paying the price of the commissions: some few appointments went without payment to distinguished cadets, and to the sons of meritorious soldiers. Once commissioned, an officer gained his step either by seniority or by purchase. When a senior officer retired, he received the regulation price from the Government, and the over-regulation price from his successor. The step went to the senior qualified officer of the lower grade in the regiment who was able and willing to purchase it. An officer who could not afford to purchase rose until he became senior of his rank, and there remained until a death vacancy, or other "nonpurchase" step gave him his promotion. Purchase did not obtain in the artillery and engineers, or except in regimental organizations. It probably did less harm to the officers than would seem: for the system stimulated promotions, by which the non-purchase officer profited, and if he lost a year or two in promotion, he saved many thousand pounds.

After lasting nearly 200 years, the system was abolished by Queen VICTORIA who formally cancelled the warrant issued by Queen ANNE in 1711, by which the purchase of commissions was legalized, and declared that no commissions should be sold after Nov. 1, 1871. As a matter of fact, the first commissions under the new system were issued on Oct. 28, 1871, three days in advance of the appointed time. A board was appointed to pay the officers deprived of the right to sell their commissions sums in compensation for their lost privilege, and the income tax was raised by two

pence to produce the necessary money. This board still exists, but when the last of the present fifteen officers dies or retires, it will close its accounts, and the purchase system will become wholly a thing of the past.

The New Policemen.

The Police Department will take on an unusually military aspect when Col. PARTRIDGE, Lieut.-Col. THURSTON and Major EBSTEIN come to the head of it, as they will with the New Year, Neither the advocates of the "army man" nor of the civilian for police chief will think that their respective theories are being tested with these gentlemen in office, since although none of them is a pure civilian, only Major EBSTEIN is distinctly an army man. Their administration may prove, howess a happy combination of military and civil habits lice end of Mayor Low's term of office a shining success.

We hope so.

Senator Sewell's Death.

The two foremost Republican leaders in New Jersey during the last quarter called-for blow at him, forbidden, under of the nineteenth century have now both passed away. Mr. HOBART was nine years younger than Gen. SEWELL, and his life was twelve years shorter; the most severely disciplined discretion. In its Presibut their legislative career at Trenton, and the growth of their political influence until it became dominant in their respective sections of the State, corresponded singularly as to dates, and followed closely parallel lines.

Gen. SEWELL entered the State Senate in 1872 from Camden, and Mr. HOBART entered the Legislature from Passaic fought at Santiago, hailed him ever in 1873. In 1876 SEWELL was President of the Senate, and Hobast was Speaker of the other house. Honast went to the Senate in 1879, and in 1881 succeeded SEWELL as President of that body. Thus it was during the same period, and side by side within the same organization, sometimes clashing but oftener cooperating, that these two accomplished politicians and interesting characters built and riveted their way to the national distinction which each attained. Outside of politics both HORLET and BEWELL were lawyers and business men constantly concerned with the affairs of large interests

In one respect the contrast is as striking as the parallel. Probably there were never two successful State leaders. contemporaries in the same blate, so utterly dissintiar in the superficial truits of personal character and manner. Mr. Honair cauded friendliness. He will and held support by the magnetism of has bearty, whoir-souled, red-blooded personality. His political methods were thous of republican amplicaty and equality. Men warmed to him when they approached him then bewell on the other hand, partly from reasons of temperament and portly, perhaps, from the acquired helpts of solidary command, almost invariably prescribed harmelf to all who had no title to his con-Now, after thirty years, the English fiduces and slid not maily know his are taking stock of their active officers. heart it at aspect rather repellant these and of all who countraind cavalry regi- attractive. His counter often chilled gometimes exasperated fillest acid find one cavalryman and fourness to: contained forceful superved he could bought their original commissions under gomething impossible for Borasi is any CRAWLEY and other famous officers was on the surface a manifestation of The purchase eyetem gree out of the intellect and will with the emotional

Jersey and at Trenton was such as re-sponds only to an equal loyalty known to exist beneath an undemonstrative exterior, and such as is inspired only by absolute trust in the leader's sagacity

and good faith. No braver soldier than WILLIAM J SEWELL fought for the Union cause. His civil career has been that of an uncommonly astute politician in New Jersey and at Washington; a statesman and Senator sound to the core on most of the great questions of his time; an indefatigable worker for the mastery of every subject occupying his mind; and an orator of few words, but capable of speaking italics when necessary.

Sad tidings, wholly out of tune with the festive holiday season, come from the western counties of New York. The report from this rich agricultural section, famed for its orchards and its vegetables, is that there is a dearth of pumpkins! Heretofore the agricultural deficiencies recognized as customary have been in peaches, cranberries and Florida oranges, but that the homely American pumpkin, the justly celebrated foundation of the famous pump kin pie, the Cucurbita pepo, should fail

is distressing if true. Various explanations of the partial failure of the pumpkin crop of 1901 have been made One is that pumpkins are usually raised along with corn and since the invention of the corn-cutting machine, it is necessary that pumpkins, which do not ripen until later than the corn, be plucked before the

machine can be used. There are few pumpkins on the market these demand high prices. Appreciative pumpkin pie eaters, deprived of their accustomed autumnal delicacy, must have recourse to mince, peach, plum, rhubarb, emon, apple, prune, cocoanut, oranberry and even custard pie, none of which is to b compared in merit with pumpkin pie.

To Mrs. THEODORE SUTBO, and to her usband also, of course, is due public recognition for their braving a disagreeable publicity for the sake of exposing a pretended physician-something which their opinion, and in everybody else's should have been done.

REJECTED WITHOUT THANKS.

A Democratic Paper on Three Military Aspirants for Democratic Favor in 1904.

From the St. Louis Republic. With the usual hurry of free advice, the kind offer of Dewey, Schley and Miles for the use of the Demo cratic National Convention of 1904 is issuing from the circles of personal admirers gathered around these distinguished officers. The Democratic party, it is said, can have any one or any two of the gallant chieftains who are now suffering from friction with the President and Cabinet.

Democrats can eliminate all discussion concern ing the professional achievements of the three notabilities, and can yet reach a quick and accurate conclusion to the effect that not one of them possesses the attributes of a satisfactory Presidential nominee.

Nothing in the career of Dewey, Schley or Miles indicates the discretion and breadth of judgment which are first and most necessary of requirements for the successful direction of great civil affairs Giving every consideration to their abilities in the special lines to which they have been limited since boyhood, there seems to be little doubt that they are in those qualities rather below than above the average of even the army and navy.

Nor does the Democracy know that any one of th three is a Democrat, either in the sense of voting allegiance or in that of fundamental conviction in fact, all the probabilities are that, though they may not be devotedly attached Republicans, they are not Democrats.

But the controlling objection is that the election of Dewey, Schley or Miles would do the Democratic party more harm than good. We should have another Grant administration, without Grant's faculty of simple directness when he did happen and sympathies that will make the po- to thoroughly understand a great civic problem. Either of the famous sallors or Gen. Miles would be surrounded with artful conspirators who would in reality administer the executive office. The President would have none of that experience among public men which alone can lead to sound judgment in selecting advisers. There would be mistakes, failures and scandals. And for these misfortunes the Democratic party would for another generation be compelled to bear the responsibility.

At the present stage of its history the Demo cratic party needs, if it ever did the ripest judgment, dential nominee. The voters whose impulses are toward the party require a man whose political principles have been deeply laid in reflection and sharply tried in constant conflict.

Railroad Men in Mexico Must Spenk Spanish

From the Monterey, Mexico, News American rathroad men in Mexico, holding post tions which bring them directly in touch with the traveillag public, and who are not able to speak Spanish, are now spending all their telsure time in acquiring a knowledge of the language of the re

The new federal law, which takes effect on Jan is responsible for the studiousness of the rail road men. It requires all representatives of rail road companies to furnish information in Spanish after that date.

Station agents, soliciting agents, conductors and brasemen will be principally afforted by the new law. The majority of the railroad employees in these capacities in Mexico now agent opanish more or icas fluently, but there are still many in informs then giving positions was depend largely on ges time, places, rairs and conditions

"American Language

To the Eligina or The Dis No. is it have that before nor late was with Spath the prediction was made in The Dis relitorishing that in time the official language of this arrantly would be called the American language? If It is that there may present state of adapts matter or are there now

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THE SCHLEY CASE.

Sensible Suggestion to Admiral Dewey TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: If the discussion of the Schley case is to proce in Congress the dozen resolutions duced there, which are based mainly on the opinion filed by Admiral Dewey, require that that opinion be explained. example, the resolution introduced by Mr Gaines of Tennessee declares that opinion of Admiral George Dewey is accepted and indorsed as the opinion of Congress." What, precisely, is that opinion!
If the agitation is to be dropped, a further statement is first due to the naval service and to Admiral Dewey himself. And he is the man, of course, the only man,

to perform the task Three points of the six in the Dewe opinion are either immaterial or not in conflict with the Court. The Court says that the blockade of Cienfuegos was not as "close as possible" (words of the order for its establishment), and Dewey merely says that the blockade was "effective The Court gives the distance at which the blockade at Santiago was maintained and Dewey merely says that this blockade was effective." Dewey says that Schley expected to obtain information at Cienfuegos through the steamer Adula, and the Court says nothing to the contrary.

But the Dewey view of the voyage from Key West to Clenfuegos, which Sampson directed should be made with the "least possible delay," and of which the Court says that Schley did "not proceed with the utmost despatch," is that "the passage to Cienfuegos was made with all possible despatch, Commodore Schley having in view the importance of arriving off Cien-fuegos with as much coal as possible in the ships hundred.

ships' bunkers." commodore Schley took within an hour or two of three days to go the 520 miles from Key West to Cienfuegos, or an average of a little over seven knots an hour. Did coal govern, and not the order to go with the "least possible delay?" I submit that Dewey's view presents too large a question of naval practice to pass without further

explanation.

The Court deals with the voyage to Santiago, but Dewey says: "The passage from Cienfuegos to a point about 22 miles south of Santiago was made with as much despatch as was possible while keeping the considers a unit."

squadron a unit."
This smacks of pettifoggery. The order was to go to Santiago. The Court considered Schley's action under that order, and in accordance with the precept. Why Admiral Deweytalk about the voyage Why doe

Admiral Deweytalk about the voyage over a certain portion of that journey, and why does he qualify his view with the idea of keeping the squadron a unit? The last paragraph of Dewey's opinion, namely, that Schley "commanded" at San-tiago, demands explanation not only for the good of the service but in justice to the good of the service, but in justice to Dewey himself. On what theory of pro-fessional propriety and of personal good faith does this officer deliver a judgment upon a question unmistakably excluded from the precept under which he was acting and deliberately rejected by himself on every one of the attempts made to intro-duce it by the party chiefly interested?

Dewey may enjoy the common right to speak for himself concerning the Santiago battle; but this expression of opinion at a time when he officially wore his uniform was a plain slap in the face of his once Com-mander-in-Chief, William McKinley, and apparently, a wanton and an atrocious breach of fair play to a brother officer, William T. Sampson. The Dewey report breach of fair play to a brother officer William T. Sampson. The Dewey report is too extraordinary to rest without a full xplanation by its author. New YORK, Dec. 27. DISAPPOINTED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Your editorial, "A National Lesson," in this morn-ing's SUN contains the most regrettable truth yet uttered in connection with the Sampson Schley controversy or Schley Court of In-quiry, as you will. You say "But for the Schley press the faults of that officer's career, recently investigated, would have remained forever unrecorded, &c.
Having noted the course taken by the

chief offender, a publication of this city during the several steps of the newspaper controversy which preceded the action asked for by Admiral Schley, and having heard all of the important witnesses testify, both on direct and cross-examination, it is imon direct and cross-examination, it is impossible to conceive how any unbiassed purveyor of the news could shut its eyes to the results of an investigation. The mistakes, to use the mildest possible term, committed by Admiral Schley during the period of his command of the Flying Squadron were either known to his tool press friends or they blindly and vaingloriously espoused a cause, considering its possibilities, which they refused to investigate. I say this knowing that nine out of ten, and perhaps a much greater percentage of the newspapers of this country are included. The chief offender and its lik knew of the results of a Congressional investigation. They also knew of President McKimley's opinion of the case after he had made a most careful canvass of the facts, and they knew, if they are capable of understanding the English language, that our greathearted, justice-loving and justice-compelling President would never countenance the persecutions alleged by the rabid or they kill the English language, that our greathearted, justice-loving and justice-compelling President would never countenance the persecutions alleged by the rabid or misinformed newspaper friends of Admiral Schiev The public, and the Schiev press, with a few exceptions, are, even now, as ready to forget it, as the President was, and say with a certain noble order. The faults of our brothers, let us write upon the sands, their virtues on the tablets of memory.

WASHINGTON, D. C. Dec. 26.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Siz: Do the friends of Admiral Schley found that officer a claim to the Santiago victory upon anything more than the theory or fact, if they prefer, that he commanded the victorious fleet and fought well during the battle? They are mintaken who suppose those facts sufficient to support the claim bone of Napo-leon's most brilliant victories were fought after the Emperor had gone to bed. They were won during the cheepless hours, week before, when he worked with colored pins

over a map
Actual fighting is always Captain's work There is no room or time for generalship in a battle. The movements and believier of modern facts and armies when engaged are of not at all the facts of this very case of the presence of almostic to a planting charge the presence of a continued charge the fact of a continued charge to the presence of a continue the fact of the part was a who continue the last of the option of the part of the p And does officially of Andrope and the particle of the state of the st

ey never retracted these statements. is counsel objected several times to imony that tended to bring into the he question of command, the object timony that tended to bring into the case
the question of command, the objections
were sustained and with the foregoing statementa all in evidence, Dewey makes his remarkable finding—in which Miles concurs!
Plitsbung, Pa., Dec. 24.

E. Y. B.

Christmas Best Kept in Germany. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: After eading an account in THE SUN of to-day' date concerning Christmas being thought and made the most of in New York, I should like to state that although the gentleman whose views are quoted has professed knowledge of Christmas in every country, he must be aware of the fact that with all due respect New York holds third or fourth place in the ceremonies and outside appearances of that

Germany ranks first and foremost. In this latter country Christmas is considered the day of all days, and is celebrated by far more people and is made more of than in New York: everywhere you go, from the slums to the palace, Christmas is being kept right merrily. Austria ranks next. then I think one may place New York with England, third.

Grammar in the Schools. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: During the recent Christmas festivities I have been hearing a great many public school children York city talk, and I am moved to inquire if grammar is taught in the public schools of this city? "I seen," "I knowed," "I have went," "I learned him," and dozens of similar inaccuracies are so common that have wondered what was the cause of it? The teachers of these children must hear them talking in the same manner every day, and I would like to know if teachers are required to correct their scholars when they hear them talk so. It is easier to teach children correct speaking by a constant watch on their language than it is to compel them learn rules which they do not understand; that is to say, if teachers really wish them to speak correctly. I fancy if a boy, who insisted on saying "I seen." were stood up n the corner as a reminder that he should speak correctly as well as act correctly, it would not only teach him the right use of language, but would be a lesson to every scholar who saw him standing there and knew that it was because he said "I saen," when he should have said "I saw." Practical grammar of that sort is worth all the rules of all the grammarians. They serve their useful purpose later and when the child is old enough to know why he spoaks correctly. If the obligation were laid upon teachers to keep close watch on the language of their scholars and correct them always, I am sure the results would be noticed and noticeable, at once. In conclusion I may say the children whom I have heard talking are not of the children of public school scholars of a few years ago, which would indicate that others than schoolteachers are careless and neglectspeak correctly as well as act correctly, rears ago, which would indicate that neglecthan schoolteachers are careless and neglectul, for it is certainly not due to ignorance the control of the contr PLAIN LANGUAGE.

An Advertising Expert's View of the Coronation.

From the National Advertiser The coronation of Edward is one of the greatest subjects for advertising at the present greatest subjects for advertising at the present time. There are few trades or manufacturers that are not going to be benefited by it. For months to come the goods to be used: the jewelry to be worn, the colors to be fashiona-ble, and the shapes of shees and hats that will take their complexion from the coronation event, will be the subject of discussion and description throughout the world. Go to any steamship office to-day in this city and you will find that even at this early date staterooms, cabins and choice places city and you will mid hat each at the early and you will mid hat early summer and the coming royal event. Speak to any of the prominent society people, and all their arrangements are made with due regard to the great fashionable display of the coming year. And when the pageant is over there will be access coronation gloves, coronation sears. And when the pageant is over there will be more coronation gloves, coronation scarfs, coronation collars, coronation hats, coronation everything in fact, from souvenirs of the memento order to a good article of the King's own whiskey, than can be figured on just now. That is why the coronation of Edward is going to be a good thing in its way, apart from its royal import.

The Coronation a Mere Theatric Pageant

Goldwin Smith in the Toronto Weekly Sun-People look forward to the Coronation as the most momentous of events. To witness it is grandeur and bliss. Every berth in the steamers is booked six months in advance. Special efforts are to be made to end the war before the Coronation. The pageant will be gorgeous, no doubt; but it will be not less devoid of practical effect or meaning than the Lord Mayor's show.

powers of his office. But the powers of his office are an august fiction. He reigns but does not govern. Nominally he directs the policy of the Kingdom, has a negative voice in all appoints all the officers of State, all the heads of the Church, all commanders by land and sea. In fact, he only indorses the decisions of his conathutional advisers. It was formally decided that the late Queen was not at liberty to choose her own waiting women. The real King is yonder man in the crowd jostling perhaps with the throng for an undistinguished seat at the ceremony. He as Prime Minister, really has the royal power his hands. It is for him that prayers should he offered in the churches that he may be enabled

to govern us well.

Though the Coronation will be devoid of pofun. Allusions have recently been made to fantastic little party in England styling itself the White Rose League, which adheres to the legiti-mist claimant of the Crown. Marie of Bavaria, against the Hanoverlan line, the title of which is the Act of Settlement. These people discreely profess perfect submission to the de facto govment of the Hanovertany, while they cherist the hope of returning some day to the right line. They can hardly let the Coronation pass without making a sign of some kind. The famical ceremony of the champion challenging all adverse ciaimants is apparently how to be omitted, other wise the uphoiders of Marie's till might be inclined to answer his challenge. It is not inflinely that in some way or other they will show sport.

The Aldermen To the Entrop of The Six Sir Section 25 of the new Charter says the Aldermen shall hold their first meeting on the first Monday of January at need. The first Monday is Jan. 6. Lettle at head. The first Monday is Jan. 6. Letter Runas. Who'd get the priors in the Tweifth Jan. cakes Will the branch Considerable Wicz chalterian, or prographically. Lecause Hore Forms is from

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THE NICARAGUA CANAL. Admiral Walker Thinks the Work Should

Be Done by Contract. WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.-Rear Admiral John G. Walker, President of the Nicaraguan Canal Commission, will soon report to the President that the work of the commission is completed, and as there have been no duties before it since the report was presented to Congress early this month, the President will be asked to dissolve it or authorize its continuance pending action on the bills for the construction of the canal. Admiral Walker is the only member who is giving any attention to the duties of the commission and his work isports and estimates presented. He expects this work to be completed early in January.

In speaking of the probable course that would be adopted for the actual work of building the canal after all difficulties have been removed, Admiral Walker said today that he believed Congress would give the President full authority to determine whether a new commission should be appointed to superintend the entire project or in what manner it should be undertaken. He believes that a commission operating under direction of the President and selected by him is the most practiable means, and does not approve of any steps through which the entire burde should be thrown upon the army enginee which is charged with the river and harbor improvements. In an undertaking of such vast proportions as the construction of the new canal he believes the work tion of the new canal he believes the work could not possibly be carried out by them, except by drawing too heavily on the of-ficers of the corps, and in his opinion a board composed of eminent engineers and experts should have full control of the operations connected with the pur-chase of land, the acquisition of a right of way and general direction of the expendi-

toure of the millions necessary to com-plete the work.

According to Admiral Walker, the ne-gotiation of treaties and the adoption by Congress of a bill providing for the building of the canal are the only requisites necessary to begin work on the big water-way. Should the Government undertake to build the canal without awarding various parts of the work to private parties under contract, Admiral Walker believes that an immense force of men, possibly numbering 30,000, would have to be carried on the pay rolls, or more than twice the number em-played at all the navy yards of the country and for this reason it would be more prac and for this reason it would be incore practicable to sublet the work and have it all performed under direct Government supervision. Admiral Walker said that if the bondholders of the Panama Canal Company of the Panama Canal Canal Company of the Panama Canal pany offer to dispose of its property as it stands for anything like a reasonable figure is not improbable that that route may selected; but the figures, he says, will be selected; but the figures, he says, will have to be considerably lower than those heretofore made public

BOTH AGREE TO ARBITRATE. Differences With Mexico Over Distribution

of "Plous Fund of the Californias." WASHINGTON, Dec. 27 .- The United States and Mexico have agreed to arbitrate differences arising out of the distribution of what is known as the "Pious Fund of the Californias." The fund was established in the sixteenth century for the support and maintenance of Jesuit Missions in California. When part of California was ceded to the United States by Mexico, more than fifty years ago, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Upper California, whose diocese was within the limits of the United States, applied for the share to which the Northern missions were entitled. After a long controversy, the accrued interest of the fund was distributed in a satisfactory manner between the missions in the United States and Mexico. The principal is held by the Mexican Government. Interest has again accumulated to the amount of about a million dollars, and Mexico has agreed to the appointment of arbi-trators to determine how much of this shall go to the missions in tory and how much to the missions in the United States. The State Department and the Mexican Embassy are arranging the terms for the protocol providing for

A Corporal on the Canteen Question. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I have been requested several times by people interested in the welfare of our soldiers to give a few facts in regard to the results of the abolishment of the canteen. Drunkenness smong the soldiers at Plattsburgh Barracks is not worse than it was during the existence of the canteen; neither has it improved to any large extent. There are at least a dozen saloons in the immediate vicinity of the barracks, so in consequence, nothing different can be expected. Plattsburgh Barracks is the greatest military post on the northern frontier, yet there is nothing whatever at the post to make life pleasant for the men. some time ago I visited a British army post,

where a garrison of hearly see men were stationed. They were provided with a large gymnasium, ampie reading rooms and nearly all the comforts of home. I was there just after pay day and did not see one soldier intoxicated. If our army was provided with the same think there would be a remarkable line If our army was provided with the same I think there would be a remarkable improvement in a short time. A canteen is disastrous and constantly puts a temptation before the recruits many of whom never saw the inside of a saloon. When the canteen existed, beer checks could be purchased whether a man had money or not: pay day was good for if. In consequence, many of the men were drains continuely and also constantly in dobt during the entire term of their enlistment. Now they go off on pay day, get draink, and when their money is all spent for stoless, which usually takes about four or five days, they are comparatively substraint peat pay day, at least, There is a vertain element entering the ranks of our army in the purpose of leading a drainen and disprehely like they are not read and inverted in the but the majority of the recruits are sent up to but the majority of the recruits are roung mys who came from require houses.

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TUNNEL EXTENSION APPROVED By Supreme Court Commission-Rives Out Claffin in Again.

Theron G. Strong, Thomas C. T. Crain and Henry Wintrhop Gray, who were appointed by the Supreme Court last fall to consider the advisability of extending the rapid transit system by a tunnel from the City Hall to the Battery and thence under the East River to Brooklyn, regardless of the consent of abutting property owners and in accordance with the plans of the Rapid Transit Commission, reported yesterday in favor of the plan as already proposed. The Commissioners report incidentally that they are in favor of the twotrack tunnel to the Battery, because a four-track tunnel would be too expensive for the city just at present. The Rapid Transit Commission's plans are approved

in every particular. George L. Rives, who is to be Corporation Counsel, resigned yesterday his membership of the Rapid Transit Commission. In accepting his resignation the board passed many encomiums upon the great value of the long-continued services which Mr. Rives had rendered to the body. John Claffin was elected to the vacancy. Prior to May, 1899, Mr. Claffin was for many years

member of the board.

Mr. Orrlaid before the board correspondence which had passed between him and Police Commissioner Murphy with regard to numerous complaints made by the United Engineering and Contracting Company that their boring operations in the East River had been seriously interfered with by the river craft. The company has the contract for making the borings in the river craft. contract for making the borings in the river bottom preparatory to the construction of the rapid transit tunnel between the vicinity of Pier 4 in this city and Joralemon street, Brooklyn. The first wash borings street, Brooklyn. The first wash borings were made without difficulty, but shoe the diamond drillings into the solid rock were begun no fewer than twelve times

were begun no fewer than tweive times have the company's borings been rendered useless by the carelessness or maliciousness on board of river steamers.

Mr. Orr announced yesterday that Col. Murphy had ordered a police patrol boat to remain constantly on duty in the neighborhood of the spot where the borings are being made.

RURAL DELIVERY CARRIERS. Rules Under Which Their Appointments

Will Be Made After Feb. 1. WASHINGTON, Dec. 27 .- The Civil Service Commission to-day approved the rules under which the appointments of rural free delivery carriers will be made after

Feb. 1, 1902. A central board of examiners. consisting of three members, will assist the Postmaster-General in making the selections of carriers. The examinations will be conducted by the special agents of the rural free delivery system in the towns from which the routes will be operated. Political or religious affiliations are not to be considered by the examiners, and the Department, under the rules, will not take cognizance of political indorsements. The examination is to consist in ascertain-

ing the ability of the applicant to read and write, with a series of personal questions as to his local acquaintance, his physical condition, previous experience, training, length of residence in the community and his ability to furnish the required equipment. He must furnish a "sub," when ment. He must furnish a "sub." when unable to perform the duties of the office and the special agent is required to ascer-tain his standing in the community. The tain his standing in the community. The patrons of the route are entitled to recommend in their petition a number of men who will be acceptable to them and to have at least one of these appointed, should they prove as eligible on examination as the other applicants. The appointments are to be limited to men between 17 and 55 years of age, except where the applicants are former Union soldiers with good record. The Postmaster-General to-day directed that after Feb. 1, 1902, all rural free delivery carriers should receive their pay checks from one office in each State.

First Volume of Census Report Ready.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.-Director Merriam the Census Bureau to-day announced that Volume I, of the reports of the twelfth census is now ready for distribution, eigh teen months after the completed their work. This is three and a half years earlier than the time required for the first volume of the census of 1890 and those of previous enumerations. volume just completed comprises statis-ties on population of the States and Terri-tories by minor civil divisions, centre of population and its median point, population of incorporated places, urban and rural population and population by sex, general nativity, country of birth, foreign parentage. voting age and years in the United States. An appendix gives a statement of territorial acquisitions.

The Views of a Sceptical Philosopher.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SCH. SON . The man who would raise a grand edifice merely to destroy it would be looked upon as a foel, declares Mr. Sherman, in his letter on immortality in yesterday's SUN. If Time. working through men, demolishes remorse lessly her fairest structures, why should any man build? And that Time does build to destroy and destroy to rebuild is a self-evident proposition. If she gives her fairest social structures flome, Greece, Egypt to the grawing hours and crases them from the earth as thoroughly as if they had never

been, why should she not consign the units of these structures to the worms? The tricks personified this idea in Krones who developed his own children at their birth.
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